SAUDI ARABIA

Ibrahim 'Abd Allah al-SUWAYYIL

(b)(1)
(b)(3)
(b)(6)

Ambassador to the United States

Ibrahim 'Abd Allah al-Suwayyil presented his credentials to President Johnson on 19 September 1964. He is also Permanent Representative to the UN. A career diplomat until his 1962-64 tour as Minister of Agriculture, Suwayyil is the only man not of royal blood ever to have held the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs (1960-March 1962).

OFFICE OF CENTRAL REFERENCE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
BIOGRAPHIC REGISTER
(1962)

The son of a prominent member of the ulama, Suwayyil was born in 1916 in Anaya in the Nejd. He graduated from the Saudi Institute in Mecca in 1936, earned a degree from Cairo University in 1940, and studied for a doctorate in modern Islamic history. Upon his return to Saudi Arabia, he taught Arabic literature for a year in the School for the Preparation of (Student) Missions Abroad in Mecca. He was appointed to the Ministry of Education in 1943, but later transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His first post was that of secretary in the Legation in Baghdad. Sent to Cairo in 1945 as first secretary of the Legation there, he attended the 11th session of the Arab League in that city in 1949. Later transferred to Beirut as Charge d'Affaires, he returned to Jidda in 1954 as counselor in the Foreign Ministry. He rose to Minister Plenipotentiary and Acting Foreign Minister in 1956.

Named Saudi Arabia's first Ambassador to Iraq in June 1957, he retained this post until his appointment as Foreign Minister in the December 1960 Council of Ministers, headed by ex-King Sa'ud.

he accepted the appointment, and represented his country at the Arab League foreign ministers' conference in Baghdad in January 1961. He led the Saudi delegation, in the absence of the King, to the Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in Belgrade in September of the same year.

When Sa'ud formed a new government in March 1962, Suwayyil was not included, and Faysal again took over the Foreign Ministry portfolio.

in April Sa'ud appointed him head of the Political Branch of the Royal Diwan and special adviser to the King with the

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Ibrahim 'Abd Allah al-SUWAYYIL (cont.)

rank of Minister. He replaced Shaykh Yusuf Yasin, who had advised the Sa'ud kings for 40 years before his death. [redacted] In September 1962 he resigned. He was appointed Minister of Agriculture by Faysal on 31 October 1962, [redacted] During this time he also served on the Legal Committee of the Council of Ministers. [redacted] He was appointed Ambassador to the US in June 1964.

[redacted]

The Ambassador's [redacted] wife is the sister of the present Ambassador to Italy, Shaykh 'Abd al-Rahman Hulaysi. She was educated in Egypt and speaks fluent English and French and some Italian as well as her native Arabic.

[redacted] Suwayyil has five children. An older son remained at school in Jidda; the other children accompanied their parents to the US.

[redacted]

10 February 1965

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